



Multiculturalism in the Armed Forces in the 20th Century

Cover:

The nine images on the cover, from left to right and top to bottom, are:

Japanese-American WACs on their way to Japan on a post-war cultural mission. (U.S. Army photo)

African-American aviators in flight suits, Tuskegee Army Air Field, World War II. (Visual Materials from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Records; from the Library of Congress, Reproduction Number LC-USZ62-35362)

During the visit of Lieutenant General Robert Gray, the Deputy Commander, USAREUR, Private First Class Donya Irby from the 44th Signal Company, out of Mannheim, Germany, describes how the 173 Van gathers, reads, and transmits signals to its destination as part of Operation Joint Endeavor. (Photo by Sergeant Angel Clemons, 55th Signal Company (comcam), Fort Meade, Maryland 20755. Image # 282 960502-A-1972C-003)

U.S. Marine Corps Commandant General Carl E. Mundy poses for a picture with members of the Air Force fire department at Mogadishu Airport, Somalia. General Mundy toured the Restore Hope Theater during the Christmas holiday. (Photo by TSgt Perry Heimer, USAF Combat Camera)

President George Bush takes time to shake hands with the troops and pose for pictures after his speech, January 1993, in Somalia. (Photo by TSgt Dave Mcleod, USAF Combat Camera)

For his heroic actions in the Long Khanh Province in Vietnam, March 1966, Alfred Rascon (center), a medic, received the Medal of Honor three decades later. (Photo courtesy of the Army News Service)

Navajo code talkers on Bougainville. (U.S. Marine Corps archive photo)

On December 19, 1993, General John M. Shalikashvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke at Sword Base with soldiers from the 364th Supply and Service Company during a stop on the Chairman's tour of UNOSOM II operations in Mogadishu, Somalia. (Combat Camera Image by SSgt L. J. McQueen)

"A gun crew of six Negroes who were given the Navy Cross for standing by their gun when their ship was damaged by enemy attack in the Philippine Area." Crew members: Jonell Copeland, Que Gant, Harold Clark, Jr., James Eddie Dockery, Alonzo Alexander Swann, and Eli Benjamin. (U.S. National Archives, Control Number NWDNS-80-G-334029)

Bibliography:

A variety of sources were used to compile the day-to-day listings in this calendar. The vast resources of the Library of Congress provided the majority of sources. The Internet also was relied upon for part of the research; the list is not inclusive. A selective bibliography of the most useful sources follows:

Bellafaire, Judith A. *The Women's Army Corps: A Commemoration of World War II Service*. Washington, DC: US Army Center of Military History, 1993.

Cohen, Jerome D. *Jews in American Military History*. Washington, DC: Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, 1996.

Nalty, Bernard C. *Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military*. New York: The Free Press, 1986.

Proft, R.J., ed. *United States of America's Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients and Their Official Citations*. Columbia Heights, MN: Highland House II, 1994.

Sherrow, Victoria. *Women and the Military: An Encyclopedia*. Denver: ABC-CLIO, 1996.

Smith, Jessie, ed. *Black Heroes of the 20th Century*. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 1998.

Swisher, Karen Gyaton, and Ancita Benally, eds. *Native North American Firsts*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1998.

Unterbuerger, Amy L., ed. *Who's Who Among the Hispanic Americans, 1994-95*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1994.

Unterbuerger, Amy L., ed. *Who's Who Among the Asian American Community, 1994-95*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1994.

Zilboorg, Caroline, ed. *Women's Firsts*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1997.

Web Resources:

<http://www.eeoc.gov/>

<http://www.korea.army.mil/org/history>

<http://www.usbol.com/Military/>

<http://www.hanford.gov/doe/hrm/asian/asi.htm#military>

<http://www.chcp.org/Vmemorialday.html>

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/indianheritage>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/hispanic>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/aah>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/womenshistory>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/medalofhonor>

<http://www.nara.gov>

<http://www.thinkquest.org/library>

<http://www.undeleete.org/military/timeline1.html>

<http://www.roa.org>

<http://www.uscg.mil/general.html>

<http://www.dtic.mil>

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute: Year 2002 Calendar Multiculturalism in the Armed Forces in the 20th Century

This calendar highlights the diversity and multiculturalism of the United States Uniformed Services in the twentieth century. The calendar identifies minorities who have furthered the advancement of their racial, ethnic, or gender group while also promoting the ideals and protecting the security of the United States of America through their participation in the military services. The recognition of diversity and past accomplishments is complicated, however, by the imprecision of military record keeping. In the past, records have only very inconsistently identified particular individuals as, for example, Hispanic.

Every effort was made to include all minority groups. Emphasis was placed on those minority groups defined by DEOMI in 1996 (African American, Asian American, Hispanic, Native American, and women). The men and women featured in this calendar serve as a small sample of the minorities who heroically served the nation in the twentieth century. From World War I to the Persian Gulf War, and in organizations ranging from the Nurse Corps to the United States Marine Corps, minorities made a dramatic impact. Minorities found the strength to rally in defense of a nation even during times when the established organizations of the nation did not acknowledge the rights, or accept the equality, of the minority groups who were defending those very same organizations. Fortunately, for the sake of the security and future of the United States of America, many minorities followed the philosophy articulated by W.E.B Dubois during World War II, "First your country, then your rights."

The calendar celebrates, but is not limited to, Medal of Honor recipients, notable firsts, major activities of specific units, official military statements and regulations in regard to minority groups, and milestones for Equal Employment Opportunity laws. In an effort to detail the progress made by minority groups in their struggle to achieve equality within the military Services the compiler has included multiple entries for numerous individuals and units. The reader hence will be able to trace the service of some individuals and units from the time of their segregated training all the way through to major battles that often resulted in the receipt of a military medal.

This calendar was compiled for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute under an Interagency Agreement with the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress. For this edition of the calendar, the compiler relied, in part, on previous research conducted for earlier DEOMI calendars, and would like to credit these works.

Todd Conklin
Federal Research Division
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

2nd Lieutenant Jackie Robinson **761st Tank Battalion**



Photo: Courtesy of National Baseball Hall of Fame (National Baseball Library; originally from *New York World Telegram*)

Jackie Robinson was drafted into the United States Army in April 1942, and became a second lieutenant in January 1943. He was assigned to the 761st Tank Battalion in 1944. On July 6, 1944, as Robinson was taking a bus from Camp Hood, Texas, to the base hospital to have his ankle examined for bone chips, the driver ordered him to the back of the bus. Robinson refused to move, aware that military regulations barred racial discrimination on any Army post vehicle. Military police were called, and Robinson was charged with being drunk and disorderly. In the ensuing court martial, he was cleared of all charges, and several months later, Robinson was honorably discharged.

Following his discharge, Robinson returned to baseball where he caught the eye of Branch Rickey, the general manager and part owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson signed a contract with the Dodgers in 1947, becoming the first African-American baseball player in the major leagues.

January

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 1969: Japanese-American Army SSG Rodney James Tadashi Yano earns U.S. Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam. New Year's Day	2 1943: Largely Hispanic 158 th Infantry Regiment, redesignated Arizona National Guard Unit, departs for southwest Pacific Theater; referred to as "Bushmasters" for jungle fighting skills.	3 1942: Hispanic Elwood R. Quesada, 33d Pursuit Group, AF, promoted to LtCol, this month; retires as LtGen, Cdr, Joint Task Force-3, Joint Technical Planning Committee, Joint Chiefs, 1951.	4 1913: Yonosuke Enouye, one of the first Japanese-American graduates of U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1891, dies.	5 1999: MG Jake Lestenkof, Alaska Native of Aleut heritage, retires after five years as Alaska National Guard adjutant general, this month.
6 Eppihany (Christian) Christmas (Orthodox Christian)	7 1942: Eleven Navy nurses at Santa Scholastica become prisoners of the Japanese after fall of Manila, this month.	8 1981: Army Flight Nurse Reba Whittle, 2LT, 813 th Medical Air Evacuation Squad, only U.S. woman POW in Europe during WWII; dies, this month.	9 1916: Korean-American Army LTC Herbert Choy born this month; becomes first Asian American named to federal court in 1971.	10 1945: U.S. Forces invade Luzon in the Philippines, this month.	11 1959: Mary M. Roberts, Army Nurse Corps, WWI, writer, historian, and editor of <i>American Journal of Nursing</i> , dies.	12 1918: Training begins for women recruited into Army Signal Corps.
13 1997: Seven African-American veterans (only one still living) receive Medal of Honor for participation in WWII.	14 1946: Department of War press release announces request for permanent establishment of Women's Army Organization.	15 1943: The Pentagon is completed.	16 1942: Filipino Army SGT Jose Calugas earns U.S. Medal of Honor for heroism in the Philippines during World War II.	17 1991: Operation Desert Storm begins.	18 1945: ENS Phyllis Mae Dailey becomes Navy's first African-American nurse, this month. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25	19 1905: Oveta Culp Hobby, creator of WAAC, born.
20 1945: U.S. Navy begins allowing African-American women to enlist in Navy's Nursing Corps, this month. World Religion Day (Baha'i)	21 1915: Filipino-American Fireman 2d Class Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad, USN, earns Medal of Honor. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observed	22 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps to enlist African Americans into regular military units, this month.	23 1922: COL Charles R. Young, Army's highest ranking African-American soldier, dies while serving as U.S. military liaison to Nigeria, this month.	24 1985: Air Force LtCol Ellison Onizuka becomes 1st Asian-American astronaut in space; flies on DoD's 1st space shuttle mission.	25 1973: Vietnam Peace Accord signed, this month.	26 1940: Army BG Sherian Grace Cadoria, first African-American woman military police officer and first African-American woman to achieve rank of general officer, born.
27 1961: Air Force Academy distinguished graduate (1982) Joginder Singh Dhillon born, this month; first Asian American to attain that honor.	28 1968: Tet Offensive begins.	29 1932: Hispanic-American Army 1 st SGT Maximo Yabes, posthumous Medal of Honor recipient for service in Vietnam, born.	30 1991: Melissa Rathburn-Nealy, first U.S. enlisted woman to become POW and first U.S. woman military POW since WWII, returns to the United States.	31 1951: Puerto Rico's "Borinqueeners" (65 th Infantry Regiment) begin successful three-day assault on Chinese troops just outside of Seoul.		

1st Lieutenant Oscar Perdomo **464th Fighter Squadron, 507th Fighter Group**



Becoming an “Ace” in a single day is an honor earned by only a small number of fighter pilots around the world. On top of the singular honor of being an Ace, a status that is achieved upon getting five “kills” within a career, getting five kills in the same day is a rare feat. The distinction of being the person who last achieved this feat for the United States and possibly the last such Ace for World War II is held by 1st Lt Oscar Francis Perdomo of the 464th Fighter Squadron, 507th Fighter Group USAAF, an American pilot of Mexican ancestry. On his tenth and last combat sortie of the war, he achieved the distinction of being the last Ace of the war.

Photo: Courtesy of San Diego Aerospace Museum
Accessed through www.elknet.pl/acestory.htm

February

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
African-American History Month					1 1949: Army's first Health Nurse Program established at Fort Devens, MA.	2 1943: Japanese-American 442 ^d Regimental Combat Team activated.
3 1995: Air Force LtCol Eileen Collins becomes first U.S. woman pilot astronaut in launch of STS-63 from Cape Kennedy.	4 1997: Army SGT Danyell E. Wilson becomes first African-American woman to walk honor guard at Tomb of Unknown Soldiers, Arlington National Cemetery.	5 1943: African-American stewards assigned to U.S. Coast Guard cutter <i>Campbell</i> staff a battle station when ship rams and sinks a German submarine, this month.	6 1945: Hispanic-American Army PVT 1st Class Manuel Perez, Jr. awarded Medal of Honor for actions this day at Fort William McKinley, Luzon, Philippines.	7 1944: LTCs Carrie Sheetz and Marjorie Morrow, Army Nurse Corps, killed when 95 th Evacuation Hospital, Anzoi, Italy, bombed.	8 1945: First and only African-American WACs assigned to the 6888 th Central Postal Directory Battalion, in European Theater. Nirvana Day (Buddism)	9 1930: Hispanic Angelo D. Juarez, MG, U.S. Army Reserve, born.
10 1967: Asian-American Elmelindo R. Smith, SSG, Army, awarded Medal of Honor posthumously for actions, this month, in Vietnam.	11 1920: Gen Daniel "Chappie" James, born; promoted to four-star rank in 1974, becoming highest-ranking African American in U.S. Air Force.	12 1944: Charles F. Anderson becomes first African-American Marine promoted to Sgt Maj, this month. Lincoln's Birthday Shrove Tuesday (Christian)	13 Ash Wednesday (Christian) Lent Begins (Christian)	14 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt approves plans to construct a military road through Canada and Alaska this month; three African-American regiments build a major portion.	15 1944: U.S. Marine Corps first all African-American combat unit, 51 st Defense Battalion, sent to Pacific Theater.	16 1943: Marcelite J. Harris, U.S. Air Force's first woman aircraft maintenance officer and one of the first two women "Air Officers Commanding" at U.S. Air Force Academy, born.
17 1945: African-American 761 st Tank Battalion completes successful two-month participation in U.S. counter-offensive during and after the Battle of the Bulge.	18 1943: First class of Army nurses graduate. Washington's Birthday Observed	19 1942: U.S. War Department authorizes first Filipino infantry battalion.	20 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 providing for internment of Japanese Americans, this month.	21 1913: First female Georgia "Tiny" Broadwick tests a new parachute called "life boat" for U.S. Army.	22 1944: Jack C. Montgomery becomes first Native American to receive Medal of Honor; singlehandedly attacked three echelons of enemy troops, taking 17 prisoners, this month.	23 1945: Army Nurse Corps drops color bar against African-American nurses. Eid-ul-Adha (Islam)
24 1943: Filipino-American MG John R. D'Araujo Jr., Director, Army National Guard Bureau, born; first Filipino-American major general to hold position.	25 1945: U.S. Marines land on Iwo Jima. More than 2 million African Americans volunteer to defend Iwo Jima and the Pacific Theater.	26 1948: Nancy C. Leftenant, first African American to become a member of the Regular Army Nurses Corps, joins Reserve Corps. Purim (Jewish)	27 1943: 1,200 Filipinos serving in U.S. Armed Forces granted citizenship.	28 1901: U.S. military establishes first permanent role for women when 202 of the 220 contract nurses on active duty are inducted into Nurse Corps.		

Easter Eggs for Hitler



On Easter morning 1945, T/5 William E. Thomas and PFC Joseph Jackson planned to roll specially prepared eggs on Hitler's lawn.

Photo: Courtesy of National Archives, 111-SC-202330

March

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Women's History Month				November 1st is World Day of Prayer (Christian)	1 1991: Army MAJ Marie T. Rossi killed in helicopter crash in Saudi Arabia, one of the first U.S. casualties in Operation Desert Storm.	2 1944: U.S. Navy commissions thirteen African Americans as its first African-American officers.
3 1931: "Star Spangled Banner" becomes U.S. national anthem.	4 1917: Loretta Walsh enlists in Navy and becomes first female Yeoman, this month.	5 1994: U.S. Navy assigns women aboard a combat ship, the <i>USS Eisenhower</i> .	6 1944: Ninety-eight African-American enlisted men enter Armored Forces School at Fort Knox, KY, as foundation for 761 st Tank Battalion.	7 1942: First five African-American cadets commissioned as U.S. Army Air Corps pilots.	8 1943: African-American PVT George Watson, Army, drowns saving others after their ship is sunk, this day; earns Medal of Honor posthumously; <i>USNS Watson</i> named after him, 1997.	9 1976: 119 women accepted for admission to U.S. Military Academy, Class of 1980; sixty-one graduate.
10 1962: MAJ Anna Maria Doering becomes first WAC to serve in Vietnam, this month.	11 1944: Company B, 148 th Infantry Regiment, becomes first African-American Infantry Unit to engage in combat during WWII.	12 1965: Raid on North Vietnam begins, this month.	13 1933: U.S. Air Force veteran and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, born; first Native American to chair Indian Affairs Committee.	14 1947: Philippine naval bases leased to the United States.	15 1947: John Lee becomes first African-American commissioned officer in regular Navy, this month. Islamic New Year 1st Day of Muharram	16 1942: U.S. Coast Guard recruits first 150 African-American volunteers. Rama Krishna Jayanti (Hindu)
17 1944: U.S. Army Air Corps all African-American 332 ^d Fighter Group sees first combat. St. Patrick's Day (Christian)	18 1945: African-American Army SSG Edward A. Carter, Jr. receives Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in action, this month near Speyer, Germany.	19 1967: Sgt Barbara J. Dulinsky, first woman Marine ordered to combat zone, arrives in Vietnam.	20 1944: <i>USS Mason</i> commissioned at Boston Naval Yard; first ship with predominately African-American crew.	21 1948: WWII hero and champion of Hispanic Rights, Hector P. Garcia, founds American GI Forum.	22 1942: MAJ Julia Flikke, Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps, given temporary rank of colonel, U.S. Army.	23 1923: Annie W. Goodrich, first Dean, Army School of Nursing, awarded Distinguished Service Medal.
24 1972: Equal Employment Act (1972) passes. Holy Week Palm/Passion Sunday (Christian)	25 Birthday of Navy, Army, and Air Force Medal of Honor celebrated as National Medal of Honor Day (PL 101-64); approved November 15, 1990.	26 1938: Hispanic-American Army CPT Euripides Rubio, born, this month; earns Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam in 1966.	27 1942: Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. and four second lieutenants become first five graduates, Tuskegee Flying School.	28 1962: Troy Devine, first woman captain, Air Force U-2 program, born. 1st Day of Passover (Jewish)	29 1943: Final battalion of 5 th Tank Group, the 784 th , activated. Good Friday (Christian)	30 1968: Yzetta L. Nelson becomes first WAC promoted to new rank of CSM.
31 1944: Baseball legend Jackie Robinson assigned to 761 st Tank Battalion. Easter (Christian)						

PFC Guy “Gabby” Gabaldon



Photo: Courtesy of www.ifilm.com

On Saipan and Tinian, Mariana Islands, South Pacific, in the summer of 1944, Marine PFC Guy “Gabby” Gabaldon distinguished himself by single-handedly capturing more than 1,000 Japanese. He has the distinction of capturing more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of U.S. military conflicts.

A Hispanic American, Gabaldon was adopted by a Japanese-American family, who taught him Japanese. When war broke out with Japan, his “brothers” joined the U.S. Armed Forces, and his adoptive parents and sister were sent to a relocation center. Following his brothers into the Armed Forces, Gabaldon qualified as a mortar crewman, Japanese translator, and scout observer. While serving as a Japanese interpreter on Saipan, he received a Silver Star for obtaining vital information and capturing more than 1,000 enemy civilians and personnel in the face of direct fire. Working alone in front of the lines, Gabaldon persuaded the weakened Japanese soldiers, who had been commanded to fight to the death, to surrender.

The twice-wounded Gabaldon was evacuated to California, and in 1960, a movie, *Hell to Eternity*, depicting his exploits was released. His Silver Star was elevated to a Navy Cross in December 1960.

April

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 1942: 761 st Tank Battalion activated at Camp Claiborne, LA. With six Caucasian officers and thirty African-American officers, battalion is comprised of 676 enlisted men.	2 1980: Secretary of Defense announces WAAC service considered active military service, with all Veterans Administration laws applicable.	3 1992: Naval Training Center graduates first five mixed-gender recruit companies.	4 1917: President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war on Germany; 1,400 African Americans serve in WWI. Passover ends	5 1945: Japanese-American PVT 1 st Class Sadao S. Munemori earns Medal of Honor for heroism this day, in Italy; first for Japanese Americans.	6 1917: United States enters WWI. By this date, 200 women enlisted as Navy Yeomen; 403 Army nurses on active duty, including 170 Reserve nurses.
7 1992: Carol D. Keehner becomes Navy's first woman Seabee Master Chief, this month.	8 1942: African-American troops from 91 st and 96 th battalions arrive in Australia to help with construction of badly needed air fields. Buddha Day (Buddhism)	9 1975: Sixty-seven women (fifty-nine civilians and eight military) killed in a plane crash during Operation Baby Lift, an attempt to rescue children from Saigon. Yom HaShoah (Je wish)	10 1943: Edith Greenwood becomes first woman to receive Soldiers Medal, this month.	11 1972: Retired Army LTC Gero Iwai dies this month, earliest and most senior Japanese American to serve in military intelligence during World War II.	12 1943: Dr. Margaret D. Craighill becomes first woman to join the Army Medical Corps, this month; given rank of major.	13 1904: Hispanic-American LtGen Elwood R. Quesada, U.S. Air Force, member of "Question Mark" endurance crew, born 1929. Baisakhi (Sikh & Hindu)
14 2001: Senior Airman Jennifer Donaldson becomes first woman graduate, National Guard Sniper School's counter-sniper program.	15 1942: African-American 24 th Infantry Regiment leaves Fort Benning, GA, on way to San Francisco for combat in the Pacific Theater.	16 1943: All laws excluding women from military Reserves revoked.	17 1945: Invasion of Okinawa begins this month.	18 1995: Geraldine Pratt, first woman Director of WAF, turns 100.	19 1945: PVT 1 st Class David M. Gonzales, U.S. Army, posthumously earns Medal of Honor for exceptional bravery in the Philippines, this month.	20 1994: Maj Jackie Parker, becomes first female Air National Guard pilot.
21 1945: Racial incident flares up in closing months of WWII; members of Tuskegee Airmen mutiny in protest against discriminatory policies.	22 1943: Chinese American Dorothy Yang receives her diploma and wings, becoming first WASP pilot.	23 1951: Japanese-American Army Corporal Hiroshi H. Miyamura earns Medal of Honor for Korean War action, this month.	24 1998: John B. Herrington, CDR, U.S. Navy, becomes first Native-American graduate of NASA training program.	25 1943: 99 th Pursuit Squadron arrives in French Morocco for training. Because of segregation, African-American pilots are forced to train themselves.	26 1923: MSG Cleto Rodriguez, U.S. Army, Medal of Honor winner for WWII actions (then PVT), born.	27 1994: Maj Jackie Parker, first woman combat pilot, Air National Guard, graduates from training in F-16C Fighting Falcon, this month.
28 1975: U.S. Marine Corps MSgt Juan J. Valdez last to leave U.S. Embassy in Vietnam as the war ends, this month.	29 1945: German CIC Southwest Forces unconditionally surrender to Italian Allies.	30 1965: U.S. Marines evacuate citizens during Dominican Republic revolution.	Holy Week 28 April-5 May Orthodox Christian			

Navajo Code Talkers



Photo: Courtesy of www.defenselink.mil/specials/indianheritage

Navajo code talkers took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, transmitting messages by telephone and radio in their native language, a code that the Japanese never broke. Navajo answered the military requirement for an undecipherable code because it is an unwritten language of extreme complexity. Its syntax and tonal qualities, plus its dialects, make it unintelligible to anyone without extensive exposure and training. In May 1942, the first 29 Navajo recruits attended boot camp, and later at Camp Pendleton, California, created the Navajo code. Once a Navajo code talker completed his training, he was sent to a Marine unit deployed in the Pacific Theater. The code talkers' primary job was to talk, transmitting information on tactics and troop movements, orders, and other vital battlefield communications over telephones and radios.

At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, declared, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Connor had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock during the first two days of the battle. They sent and received more than 800 messages, all without error. The Japanese, who were skilled code breakers, remained baffled by the Navajo language. In 1942, there were about 50,000 Navajo tribe members. As of 1945, about 540 Navajos had served as Marines; from 375 to 420 of these Marines had trained as code talkers.

May

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Asian-Pacific Heritage Month			1 1942: Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. transfers to Army Air Corps, this month; son of Army's first African-American general; also advanced to general in December 1998. Beltane (Wicca)	2 1976: BG Hazel W. Johnson-Brown becomes first woman in U.S. Army to earn Master of Military Art and Science Degree, Army Command and General Staff College, this month.	3 1943: Federal government bars all war contractors from discriminating on basis of race, this month.	4 1977: Army Board for Correction of Military Records restores Medal of Honor to Dr. Mary E. Walker, first female recipient of the award.
5 1939: Committee for the Participation of Negroes in National Defense formed. Easter (Orthodox Christian)	6 1993: President William J. Clinton praises contributions of Asian Americans in U.S. military at Asian-Pacific Islander Month ceremony at the White House, this month.	7 1942: One day after surrender of General Jonathan M. Wainwright IV's troops in the Philippines, all remaining U.S. nurses are taken prisoner.	8 1945: United States celebrates V-E Day as Germany's unconditional surrender is signed.	9 1995: BrigGen Marcelite Harris, USAF, promoted to MajGen this month; first African-American woman to attain this rank. Ascension of Jesus (Christian)	10 1950: First direct Army commissions offered to women college graduates, this month.	11 1982: Army announces return to separate basic training for men and women, this month.
12 1976: 2Lt Kathleen A. Rambo becomes first Air Force Reservist selected for undergraduate pilot training program, this month. Mother's Day	13 1908: U.S. Navy Nurse Corps established.	14 1944: Asian-American U.S. Army SSG Rudolph B. Davila, 7 th Infantry, awarded Medal of Honor for actions this month at Ardena, Italy.	15 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs act creating Women's Auxiliary Corps. 1997: U.S. Air Force LtCol Eileen Collins pilots Space Shuttle, STS-84.	16 1910: Horacio Rivero, first Hispanic four-star Navy admiral, born, this month.	17 1978: First women, one from each of the five Armed Services, debut as members of the White House Honor Guard. Shavuot (Jewish)	18 1953: Jacqueline Cochran, founder and director of the WASP, becomes first woman to pilot an aircraft supersonically.
19 1942: Coast Guard begins accepting African Americans to serve in capacities other than messman. Pentecost (Whitsunday) (Christian)	20 1943: Photojournalist Gordon A. Parks, Sr. becomes first African American to work for U.S. Office of War Information.	21 1979: Antonia H. Chayes, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and then highest-ranking woman in the Pentagon, granted first official Air Force WASP discharge.	22 1917: Army nurses Edith Ayers and Helen Wood killed during accidental explosion aboard <i>USS Mongolia</i> .	23 1944: Van Barfoot becomes one of the first of five Native Americans to win Medal of Honor by knocking out two machine gun nests and capturing 17 Germans in Rome.	24 1974: U.S. Congress reduces minimum age for enlisted women to that for men, effective April 1, 1976. Mawlid an-Nabi (Islam)	25 1973: Women's participation in Army ROTC programs at all colleges authorized.
26 1975: U.S. House of Representatives votes to admit women to service academies. Buddha Day-Visakha Puja (Buddhist)	27 1942: African-American Mess Attendant 2d Class Doris "Dorie" Miller receives Navy Cross for service during Pearl Harbor attack. Memorial Day	28 1942: Congresswoman Edith Nurse Rogers introduces bill HR 4906 to establish WAAC.	29 1962: Army Surgeon Eleanor Ardel Vietti captured at Leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot; still listed as a POW.	30 1992: Marianne Mathewson-Chapman, becomes chief nurse, HQ & HQ Detachment, State Area Command, Florida Army National Guard, this month; first woman MG, Army National Guard, 2000.	31 1987: Hoang Nhu Tran, former Vietnamese boatperson, graduates valedictorian in his Air Force Academy class.	

Lieutenant Daniel K. Inouye **2nd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team**



Photo: Courtesy of Senator Daniel K. Inouye

During White House ceremonies on June 21, 2000, 21 Asian-American World War II veterans had their Distinguished Services Crosses upgraded to Medals of Honor. Seven of the 21 recipients are still living. Nineteen of the 21 veterans were members of the all-Japanese 100th Infantry Battalion, or 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for their size, they were among the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history. Some 33,000 Asian-American troops formed the 442nd Regiment, which fought in eight major campaigns in Italy, France, and Germany.

In awarding the medals, President Clinton noted that the servicemen, many of whom volunteered for service directly from the internment camps where they had been sent following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, "did not give up on their country when too many of their countrymen gave up on them."

June

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 1961: LTC Nora G. Springfield becomes first woman officer detailed to Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps since WWII.
2 1917: U.S. military ship dispatched to France this month includes more than 400 African-American stevedores and longshoremen.	3 1942: U.S. Military Intelligence Service Language School adds Japanese-American instructors, this month.	4 1942: Dr. Elizabeth Reynard, Special Assistant to Chief, Bureau of Naval Personnel, asks Smith College president to avail its facilities to the Navy in order to train women, this month.	5 1963: Directive from Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, bans racial discrimination on all U.S. military bases, this month.	6 1944: D-Day landings on Normandy begin. African-American 320 th Anti-Aircraft Barrage Balloon Battalion participates in the invasion.	7 1904: Japanese-American Kiro Kunitomo dies; one of the first Asian graduates of U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1877).	8 1965: U.S. Forces authorized to go into combat in South Vietnam.
9 1994: Navy's annual aviation screening board reports five of seventeen women eligible are selected, highest number ever for the Navy.	10 1963: Equal Pay Act (1963) passes, prohibiting wage differentials based on gender for the same jobs: "Equal pay for equal work."	11 1909: Wen Ying-hsing and Chen Ting-Chia graduate as foreign students from U.S. Military Academy.	12 1972: Junior ROTC authorized for high school girls.	13 1918: All African-American 92 nd "Buffalo" Division, arrives in France, this month.	14 1945: COL Florence A. Blanchfield, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, awarded Distinguished Service Medal for leadership of Corps during WWII. Martyrdom of Guru Arjan (Sikh) Flag Day	15 2000: Twenty-two WWII Asian-American and American-Pacific Islander Medal of Honor winners inducted into Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, this month.
16 1899: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., first African-American general officer, Regular Army and U.S. Armed Forces, enlists as PVT, Troop I, 9 th Cavalry. Father's Day	17 1973: Jeanne M. Holm becomes first woman in the Air Force promoted to MajGen.	18 1945: 201 st Mexican Fighter Division arrives in northern Luzon to support U.S. ground troops.	19 1944: SSgt Timerlate Kirven and Cpl Samuel J. Love, Sr., only African Americans decorated by 2 ^d Marine Division, receive Purple Heart, this month.	20 1944: U.S. House of Representatives rejects legislation that would have militarized the WASP, this month.	21 1993: LtCol Patricia Fornes becomes first woman to command operation combat squadron upon taking over 740 th Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, ND. Midsummer (Wicca)	22 1999: Asian-American Army General Eric K. Shinseki assumes duties as 34 th Army Chief of Staff.
23 1949: Hispanic American Emilio A. de la Garza, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Corps LCpl, born. Pentecost (Orthodox Christian)	24 1920: Congress passes National Defense Act this month, downsizing Army to 300,000 personnel. All four longstanding African-American units survive cutbacks.	25 1998: Rabbi Aaron Landes honored this month for serving thirty-six years as a Navy chaplain, only rabbi to hold rank of RADM.	26 1944: Japanese-American Army PVT 1 st Class Kiyoshi Muranaga earns Medal of Honor posthumously for heroism.	27 1950: Thirteen platoons of Marine Corps Women's Reserves mobilize for "involuntary service" for Korean War, this month.	28 1981: Hispanic-American Army SGM Gerard Rodriguez retires this month; believed last of "Merrill's Marauders" to leave active duty.	29 1926: Congress passes GI Fiancees Act, enabling women or men engaged to U.S. service members to immigrate to United States.
30 1975: Secretary of Defense ends involuntary discharge of pregnant women.	June 30th is Oharai (Shinto)					

Captain Jose R. Corpus, U.S. Navy



Captain Jose R. Corpus, Chief of Staff at Submarine Group Seven in Yokosuka, Japan, was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for the year 2000 by the Washington, D.C.-based Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC). Corpus is the highest-ranking U.S. Filipino-American naval officer. Corpus said, “My life in the U.S. Navy has seen the encouragement of multiple cultures, the reflection of America itself and the fact that as you look at the Navy today, you see the faces of many Asian minorities.”

Photo and information: Courtesy of www.defenselink.mil/specials/

July

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 1964: Civil Rights Act (1964) passes, prohibiting employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, national origin, and religion.	2 1929: Army SGT Henry Johnson, one of the first Americans to receive France's Croix de Guerre, dies. 1998: Hispanic American Louis Caldera becomes 17 th Secretary of the Army.	3 1943: First Filipino Infantry Battalion sent to the Pacific Theater.	4 2001: President George W. Bush presents four of original twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers with Congressional Gold Medal, this month. Independence Day	5 1998: Latino Ana Maria Salazar named Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Drug Enforcement, Policy, and Support, this month.	6 1990: Women Marines Association national convention in Denver celebrates 30 th anniversary of women Marines, this month.
7 1944: PC 1264 commissioned, first submarine chaser with an all African-American crew.	8 1948: Sgt Esther M. Blake becomes first woman in the Air Force when she enlists at Fort McPherson, GA.	9 1944: Capt Michael Brezas becomes an Air Force Ace this month after shooting down his 12 th plane within two months.	10 1943: First full-blooded Native-American woman in Marine Corps, Pvt Minnie Spotted-Wolf, enlists this month.	11 1961: Army nurses assist in relief operations following the crash of United Airlines Flights 759 near Denver, CO.	12 1944: Army 2LT Jackie Robinson, member, 761 st Tank Battalion, court martialed, this month; later acquitted, then honorably discharged. Later breaks "color line" in baseball.	13 1965: Hispanic-American Army SGT 1 st Class Issac Camacho, escapes after 20 months as a POW in Vietnam, this month; later awarded Silver Star and Bronze Star.
14 1944: 1st WAC contingent arrives in Normandy.	15 1942: U.S. Army prohibits African-American soldiers from participating in the Bastille Day victory parade held in Paris, this month.	16 1946: Japanese-American 442d "Go for Broke" Regimental Combat Team receives Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation from President Harry Truman.	17 1996: VADM Patricia Tracey, first and only woman in U.S. Navy to achieve VADM rank, becomes Chief, Naval Education and Training, and Director of Training, this month.	18 1998: "Spirit of Freedom Memorial" unveiled in Washington, D.C.; honors African-American troops who served during the Civil War. Tisha B'av (Jewish)	19 1993: Japanese-American SGT Roy H. Matsumoto inducted into U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame, honored for extraordinary courage and service with "Merrill's Marauders."	20 1948: Executive Order 9981 signed by President Harry Truman, this month, integrating the Armed Services.
21 1998: Mary-Agnes Brown Groover, Veterans Administration lawyer who headed WAC in South Pacific during WWII, dies, this month.	22 1993: General Roscoe Robinson, Jr., Army's first African-American, four-star general, dies.	23 1944: SS E.A. Bryan and SS Quinalt Victory explode this month during loading of ammunition in Port Chicago, CA, killing 320 sailors; two-thirds are African Americans.	24 1999: Air Force Col Eileen Collins becomes first woman commander of a space shuttle, STS-93, this month. Pioneer Day (Mormon)	25 1941: African-American Army BG Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., retires, this month; recalled to active duty with rank of BG August 1.	26 1990: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 passes, prohibiting employment discrimination based on mental or physical disabilities.	27 1918: This month, Nurse Corps is renamed Army Nurse Corps; pay is increased to \$60 per month.
28 2001: North American Iroquois Veterans Association holds "summer pow wow" in Salamanca, New York, this month.	29 1991: U.S. Senate votes this month to allow women to fly combat missions.	30 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs legislation creating the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES).	31 1942: First forty African-American women recruits begin attending first WAAC officer training at Fort Des Moines, IA.			

The Borinqueneers



Courtesy of www.army.mil/cmh-pg/topic/hisp/Bor.jpg

In August 1950, less than two months into the Korean War, Puerto Rico's 65th National Guard Infantry Regiment, the "Borinqueneers," was sent to the combat zone. Landing at the port city of Pusan on the Korean Peninsula's southern tip, where United States forces had been holding a perimeter against the communist North Korean invaders, the Puerto Rican Regiment took part in the United States breakout and drive to the north. Five months later, in late January 1951, the Borinqueneers were positioned south of the Korean capital of Seoul, under orders to take two hills being held by China's 149th Division. The successful assault took three days.

During their service in Korea, the men of the 65th Infantry won four Distinguished Service Crosses and 125 Silver Stars. The Borinqueneers were also awarded the Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations, and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery.

August

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 1973: Discharge-on-marriage rule for enlisted women and officers ends.	2 1990: United Nations forces begin to form for Operation Desert Storm: 26,000 women participate, thirteen die, and two become POWs.	3 1942: Montford Point Marines, first African-American Marines, segregated from Camp Lejeune, NC, begin their training, this month.
4 2000: National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) Reunion 2000 held in Chicago, this month.	5 1964: Hispanic-American U.S. Navy pilot, LTJG Everett Alvarez, Jr. shot down in Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam; released from POW camp in 1973.	6 1951: DACOWITS established to interpret the public role of women in the Armed Services and to promote service careers.	7 1959: U.S. Congress authorizes PL 86-142, granting women who served after September 30, 1943, military credit for WAAC service.	8 1988: President Ronald Reagan signs new Japanese-American compensation law this month for repayment of damages to Japanese Americans during WWII.	9 1956: First foreign women officers (six from Burma) enter WAC Officer Basic Class, this month.	10 2001: Air Force BrigGen Carol C. Elliott, Vice Commander, Air Intelligence Agency, Kelly AFB, TX, retires, this month.
11 1943: All Japanese-American 442d Regimental Combat Team departs for Europe.	12 1918: Opha Mae Johnson becomes first of 305 women accepted for duty in Marine Corps Reserve.	13 1941: Ground broken on Huntsville Arsenal, this month. Factory will employ more than 6,000 civilians during the war; 25 percent are African American.	14 1952: Filipino-American Army SGT LeRoy A. Mendonca posthumously awarded Medal of Honor for gallantry in repulsing the enemy on July 4, 1951, in Chichon, Korea.	15 1932: Hispanic-American Edward Gomez, Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Corps Pvt (Korean War), born, this month.	16 1995: Oveta Culp Hobby, Director, WAC during WWII, dies.	17 1908: Esther Voorhees Hasson becomes first Superintendent, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, this month.
18 1943: U.S. Army formally rejects creation of volunteer integrated division proposed after attack on Pearl Harbor by several African-American newspaper editors, this month.	19 1945: Asian American MG Eugene S. Imai, Deputy Commander, Army Pacific National Guard Bureau, born.	20 1945: Japan surrenders this month, ending WWII.	21 1943: Harriet M. West becomes first African-American woman major in WAC.	22 1968: Army LTC Annie Ruth Graham, veteran of both WWII and Korea, dies, this month.	23 1976: Ten WACS assigned to U.S. Military Academy staff and faculty.	24 1959: Former Army CPT, Japanese American Daniel K. Inouye, wins election to U.S. House of Representatives as new state of Hawaii's first Congressman.
25 1950: All-Hispanic 65 th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Borinqueneers," leaves for Korea from Puerto Rico.	26 1920: 19 th Amendment to U.S. Constitution ratified; women gain right to vote. 1942: Howard P. Perry becomes first African American to report to Montford Point Marine training camp.	27 1918: France's liaison to U.S. Expeditionary Air Force issues "secret" memorandum this month on how to treat African-American troops, suggesting they remain segregated.	28 1944: Red Ball Express, a crucial supply effort stretching across Europe with African Americans as 75 percent of all drivers, begins operations this month.	29 1918: Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels approves acceptance of women into the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, this month.	30 1944: Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal approves up to 10 percent of the crews assigned to twenty-five auxiliary ships be African Americans. Shree Krishna Jayanti (Hundi)	31 1942: One hundred twenty women officers, commissioned directly as ENS or LTJG, reported to "USS Northampton"-Smith College, this month.

Women in the Army Air Force



Hazel Ying Lee

Photo: Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force Museum

In September 1942, the Army Air Force (AAF) created the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), later named the Women Air Force Service Pilots, and appointed Nancy H. Love its commander. The highly skilled female pilots recruited by Love were sent on noncombat missions ferrying planes between factories and AAF installations. The Air Force also set up a Women's Flying Training Detachment, and eventually more than 1,000 women completed flight training. The women were considered Civil Service employees of the AAFS WAFS/WASP.

Because of their civil-service status, the 38 WASPs who died in the line of duty during World War II were buried without military honors. Among these 38 WASPs was Hazel Ying Lee, a Chinese-American pilot, who flew fighter aircraft from production factories to airbases throughout the United States. Ying Lee died in a midair collision in 1944. The WASPs successfully campaigned for military status, and in 1977 Congress designated the WASPs as veterans of World War II. In 1979, the Air Force granted them official military acceptance, and in 1984 each WASP was awarded the Victory Medal. Those who had served for more than one year were also awarded the American Theater Medal.

September

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 1939: WWII begins as Germany invades Poland.	2 1993: William Shao Chang Chen, U.S. Army, first Chinese-American MG, retires, this month. Labor Day	3 1942: Nancy Harkness Love organizes twenty-five women pilots into WAFS, this month.	4 1943: All Japanese-American 442d Regimental Combat Team lands at Salerno, Italy.	5 1992: BrigGen Ravindra F. Shah, M.D., born in India, appointed state air surgeon, New York Air National Guard, this month.	6 1952: Hispanic-American Army CPL Benito Martinez earns Medal of Honor posthumously for conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage during Korean War, this date.	7 1924: Daniel K. Inouye, first Japanese American elected to U.S. Senate, born. Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
8 1997: Design concept unveiled this month for National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C. to honor patriotism of all Japanese Americans during World War II.	9 1918: W.E.B. DuBois, in "Close Ranks" editorial this month, encourages African Americans to support the war effort declaring: "first your country, then your rights."	10 1917: Emmett J. Scott, former assistant to Booker T. Washington, appointed Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of War, this month.	13 1918: All African-American 809 th Pioneer Infantry arrives in France, this month.	12 1934: MG John Liu Fugh born; first Chinese American to obtain general officer rank in U.S. Army.	13 1977: 1,500 U.S. Armed Forces women participate in NATO exercises for first time, this month.	14 1940: African-American leaders meet Secretary of the Navy this month to present seven-point program for mobilizing African Americans.
15 1950: Hispanic-American Marine Corps 1stLt Baldomero Lopez receives Medal of Honor posthumously, this month, for service during Korean War.	16 1940: Selective Training & Service Act signed, first peacetime draft; includes anti-discrimination clause and mandatory 10 percent quota system to ensure integration. Yom Kippur (Jewish)	17 1914: VFW Ladies Auxiliary organized. 1949: Annie E. Graham and Anne E. Lamb, first African-American women to enlist in Marines, this month.	18 1998: National POW/MIA Recognition Day proclaimed.	19 1985: U.S. House of Representatives approves HR 1378, this month; grants Federal land for memorial to women in military service.	20 1941: CPT Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. becomes first African American to officially complete a solo flight as officer of the U.S. Army Air Corps, this month.	21 1989: General Colin Powell, confirmed by U.S. Senate, becomes first African-American Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Sukkot (Jewish)
22 1965: Executive Order 11246 issued, this month; requires non-discrimination policies for all employers contracting with Federal government.	23 1977: <i>USCGC Morganthau</i> becomes first cutter to operate with women assigned as permanent crew.	24 1911: Filipino Scout PVT Jose B. Nisperos earns Medal of Honor for heroism in the Philippines, this day.	25 1991: RADM Mariann Stratton becomes Director, Navy Nurse Corps, and Assistant Chief of Personnel Management in Navy Medicine, this month.	26 1973: Rehabilitation Act (1973) passes, prohibiting employment discrimination against disabled persons employed by the Federal government.	27 1945: United States celebrates V-J Day this month; Japan signs formal surrender.	28 1943: All African-American 761 st Tank Battalion moves to Fort Hood, TX for advanced armored training, this month. Simchat Torah (Jewish)
29 1942: Army Air Force approves the WFTD program to train women to serve as ferrying pilots, this month.	30 1993: Polish-born General John M.D. Shalikashvili appointed Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.					

51st Composite Defense Battalion



Photo: Courtesy of National Archives

On June 25, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802, establishing the Fair Employment Practice Commission, which prohibited racial discrimination by any government agency. The Executive Order gave African Americans the right for the first time to become U.S. Marines.

On August 18, 1942, Headquarters and Service Battery of the 51st Composite Defense Battalion was activated at Montford Point, near Jacksonville, North Carolina. The first African-American recruit to arrive at the camp was Howard P. Perry of Charlotte, North Carolina, who arrived August 26th and was later joined by 119 recruits. From July 1942 through the end of the war, 20,000 African Americans were trained at Montford Point and inducted into the Marine Corps.

October

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Hispanic Heritage Month (15 Sep-15 Oct) National Disability Month		1 1985: Hispanic-American Air Force BrigGen Carmelita Vigil-Schimmenti becomes first Hispanic woman in military to attain rank of general.	2 1918: "Lost Battalion," 308 th Infantry, trapped in Argonne Forest, early this month.	3 1977: First combined male and female Army Signal Corps training begins at Fort Gordon, GA.	4 1940: War Department establishes quota for enlisting African Americans based on percentage of their numbers in the general population.	5 1944: Army 2LT Frances Slanger killed by shell fragments after stating in <i>Stars and Stripes</i> , "Sure we rough it, but compared to the way you men are taking it we can't complain."
6 1959: Chinese-American Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Ying Lin, born. World Communion Sunday (Christian)	7 1941: Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox reiterates Navy's official policy of enlisting African Americans primarily in the non-White Steward's branch.	8 1940: Puerto Rico National Guard called into Federal Active Service.	9 1944: African-American Army PVT Ernest A. Jenkins receives Silver Star for "conspicuous gallantry" during liberation of Chateaudun, France.	10 1965: SGM Florence G. Munson honored by having the headquarters and WAC class buildings named for her at Fort McClellan, AL.	11 1994: Chinese American Frederick Pang is sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy.	12 1944: U.S. Marine Corps 2 ^d all African-American combat unit, 52 ^d Defense Battalion, arrives in the Pacific.
13 1978: Civil Service Act (1978) passes, prohibiting discriminatory personnel practices.	14 1917: 639 African Americans graduate from officer training school and are commissioned at Fort Dodge, IA. Columbus Day Observed	15 1942: U.S. Army reactivates all African-American 92 ^d Infantry Division at Fort McClellan, AL.	16 1940: African-American physician Dr. Charles Richard Drew pioneers a system for storing plasma, this month; process saves countless lives during WWII.	17 1994: Navy LT Kara S. Hultgreen, first woman to qualify in combat-ready F-14 Tomcat, dies; engine malfunctions approaching deck of <i>USS Abraham Lincoln</i> , this month.	18 1946: 8000 th WAC Detachment arrives to serve in Occupied Japan this month.	19 1944: Japanese-American Army PVT Barney F. Hajor, 442d Regimental Combat Team, receives Medal of Honor for actions, this month.
20 1978: President Jimmy Carter signs bill abolishing WAC. Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)	21 1942: Hugh Mulzac becomes first African American to captain a U.S. Merchant Marine ship, this month.	22 1944: African-American crew of <i>USS Mason</i> overcome extreme weather conditions to rescue numerous vessels off the coast of England, this month.	23 1928: Samoan-American Medal of Honor recipient Army PVT First Class Herbert K. Pililau born, this month.	24 1945: 555 th Parachute Infantry Battalion transferred this month from Camp MacHall Army Air Field, NC, to Fort Bragg, NC, where it was attached to 82 ^d Airborne Division.	25 1940: President Roosevelt promotes Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. to rank of BG.	26 1997: Women in Military Service For America Memorial dedicated, this month.
27 1948: First eight women on active duty are sworn in as commissioned officers in the regular Navy, this month. Reformation Sunday (Protestant Christian)	28 1944: Japanese-American Army Tech 5 th Grade James K. Okubo, 442d Regimental Combat Team, receives Medal of Honor for actions in France, this and following day, and in November.	29 1918: Ralph Waldo Tyler, reporter and government official becomes first and only official African-American WWI correspondent.	30 1984: U.S. Congress grants a Federal Charter to WAC Veterans Association under Federal Law 98-584.	31 1917: U.S. Army commissions 639 African-American officers trained at an all Black facility in Fort Des Moines, IA. All Hallows Eve (Christian) Samhain (Wicca)		

Rear Admiral Lillian Fishburne, U.S. Navy



Photo: Courtesy of Department of Defense

Rear Admiral Lillian Fishburne was born March 25, 1949, into a Navy family. She was commissioned an ensign after completing Women Officers School at Newport, Rhode Island, in February 1973, and was assigned to the Naval Air Test Facility in Lakehurst, New Jersey. During her career, Fishburne assumed progressively more responsible positions. After graduating from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1993, she was assigned to the Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems Directorate, Joint Staff, and became Chief, Command, and Control Systems Support Division, the following year. Fishburne was promoted to Rear Admiral on February 1, 1998, the first female African American to attain that rank. At a brown bag luncheon with students and faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School in July 2000, Admiral Fishburne said, in response to a career-related question, “Have faith! You will get there!” She retired as Deputy Director and Fleet Liaison, Information Space Warfare Command and Control, Chief of Naval Operations, February 2001.

November

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Native-American History Month				November 1st is All Saints Day (Christian)	1 1943: Army PVT Mikio Hasemoto, 100 th Infantry Battalion, receives posthumous Medal of Honor for actions this month at Cerasuolo, Italy.	2 1988: Minority Officers Association holds first meeting; association is dedicated to improving minority and female officer recruiting and status.
3 1948: First female U.S. Army officer not in medical corps sworn in.	4 1943: WAC members become eligible for GI insurance this month. 1977: PL 95-202 passes, giving WASPs veteran status. Diwali (Hindu)	5 1950: Army CPL Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr., earns Medal of Honor posthumously for actions in Korea, this month.	6 1940: African-American Judge William H. Hastie becomes civilian aide to the Secretary of War, this month; later resigns because of continuing discrimination. 1st Day of Ramadan (Islam)	7 1944: 442d Regimental Combat Team rescues 211 survivors of 36th ("Texas") Infantry Division's "Lost Battalion" in France this month; 200 killed and 600 wounded.	8 1944: African-American Army SSG Ruben Rivers posthumously (1997) awarded Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in action, this month in Guebling, France.	9 1918: Army PVT David Barkley posthumously (1989) receives Medal of Honor for risking life above and beyond call of duty this day; becomes first Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient.
10 1944: Elizabeth B. Murphy Moss becomes first African-American woman certified as a war correspondent for WWII, this month.	11 1944: 92 ^d Infantry Division ("Black Buffaloes") mortar company wipes out enemy machinegun emplacements during U.S. Army's Italian campaign, this month. Veterans Day	12 1939: William Shao Chang Chen born, this month; becomes first Chinese American appointed major general in U.S. Army. Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)	13 1918: Following a flu epidemic, Army Nurses Corps accepts eighteen African-American nurses on "experimental" basis. Less than one year later, all eighteen nurses are terminated.	14 1918: Illinois' all African-American 370 th Infantry Regiment wins twenty-one U.S. Distinguished Crosses and sixty-eight French Croix de Guerre for service during WWI.	15 1994: Certificate of Appreciation awarded to all African-American 366 th Regiment's Veterans Association on 50 th anniversary of end of WWII.	16 1945: U.S. Marine Corps 1stLt Frederick C. Branch becomes first commissioned African-American officer, this month.
17 1918: The all Black 369 th Infantry Regiment, "Harlem Hellfighters," are first Americans to reach combat zone in France and to cross Rhine River.	18 1944: Asian American PFC Joe M. Nishimoto, 442d Regimental Combat Team, awarded Medal of Honor posthumously for actions this month at La Houssiere, France.	19 1956: Hispanic American Edward D. Bacca enlists in New Mexico National Guard; later becomes general. Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh)	20 1977: Evelyn P. Foote becomes Commander, 2 ^d Basic Training Battalion, Fort McClellan, AL, this month; retires as BG, 1989.	21 1952: Native American Army PVT 1 st Class Charles George earns Medal of Honor posthumously (1954) for smothering a grenade with his body in Korean War, this month.	22 1989: President George H. Bush signs Joint Resolution of Congress authorizing Vietnam Women's Memorial Project.	23 1942: Coast Guard Woman's Auxiliary (SPARS) authorized.
24 1946: 8225 th WAC Battalion arrives for service with Far East Command in Tokyo.	25 1943: Pearl Harbor hero Doris Miller dies when his vessel is sunk by a Japanese torpedo. A destroyer vessel is later named in his honor.	26 1991: Civil Rights Act (1991) passes, providing for recovery of and compensatory and punitive damages under Americans with Disabilities Act.	27 1901: Army War College authorized.	28 1950: Hispanic American Pvt Hector A. Cafferata, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, earns Medal of Honor for service in Korean War, this month. Thanksgiving Day	29 1944: 761 st Tank Battalion becomes first African-American armored unit to enter combat during assaults on French towns.	30 1999: Charles Chibitty honored as last surviving Army Commanche "Code Talker." 1st Day of Hanukkah (Jewish)

Corporal Carlton Chapman **Motor Transport Unit, 761st Mountain Battalion**



Photo: Courtesy of National Archives (111-SC-196106-S)

In 1941, some nine months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 98 African-American enlisted men were assigned to the Armored Forces School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the first time that African Americans had been posted to an armored section of the U.S. Army. The number of African Americans at the school increased rapidly, and in June 1941, the African-American 758th Tank Battalion (light) was formed. In October 1942, the unit was designated the 761st Tank Battalion. The 761st was sent to Europe in 1944, arriving in Normandy in October 1944. At General Patton's request, the 761st was assigned to the 26th Infantry Division, XII Corps, in General Patton's 3rd Army.

December

2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 1943: All African-American 555 th Parachute Infantry Company, begins airborne training at Fort Benning, GA, this month. First Sunday of Advent (Christian)	2 2000: Construction of Army Women's Museum, Fort Lee, VA, completed; move of artifacts, files, and equipment finished; dedicated May 2001.	3 1941: Five Navy nurses on Guam taken prisoner by the Japanese, this month.	4 1906: Grace Hopper, COBOL pioneer and first woman RADM, U.S. Navy, born, this month.	5 1993: Public Law 103-163 authorizing Air Force Memorial signed by President William J. Clinton, this month.	6 1958: Army MAJ Nancy Currie, space shuttle astronaut, born, this month. Eid ul Fitri (Islam)	7 1941: 1LT Annie G. Fox, Army Nurse Corps, receives Purple Heart for service at Pearl Harbor; first woman to receive medal as result of combat.
8 1941: U.S. Navy messman Doris Miller helps move his mortally wounded commander to shelter, then mans a machinegun on the <i>USS Arizona</i> . Bodhi Day (Buddhism)	9 1944: U.S. Army assigns the all Black 24 th Infantry to Saipan and Tinian to "clean out" pockets of Japanese resistance.	10 1975: Army authorizes admission of women to Army OCS training, Fort Benning, GA, this month.	11 1942: Willa B. Brown becomes first African-American woman commissioned as a CAP (Civil Air Patrol) lieutenant, this month.	12 1980: Defense Officer Personnel Management Act enacted, placing women in all Service branches on the same promotion lists as men.	13 1997: RADM Marsha J. Evans, first female Superintendent, Naval Postgraduate School, relinquishes command, this month.	14 1950: Anna M. Rosenberg confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Personnel.
15 1943: First Chinese-American officer in U.S. Marine Corps, Wilbur Carl Sze, commissioned as 2ndLt.	16 1936: Carmelita Schemmenti, BrigGen, U.S. Air Force, born.	17 1943: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs repeal of Chinese Exclusion Act; soon thereafter 14,000 Chinese Americans drafted into Armed Forces.	18 1948: One hundred and ninety-nine WAC officers appointed to regular Army.	19 1980: ENS Brenda Robinson becomes first African-American female aviator, U.S. Navy, assigned to Fleet Logistics Squadron, Norfolk, VA, this month.	20 1999: MG Edward Richardson, Chinese-American adjutant general, Hawaiian National Guard, retires, this month.	21 1952: Pamela Davis Dorman, first woman Navy Chaplain to serve in U.S. Marine Corps, born. Yule (Wicca)
22 1987: President Ronald Reagan signs American Homecoming Act allowing immigration to the United States of Vietnamese children with U.S. parentage.	23 1940: Kansas National Guard Troop C, 114 th Cavalry, only all Native-American Cavalry Unit in United States, mobilized for one-year active Federal service.	24 1967: Age Discrimination Act (1967) passes, prohibiting employment discrimination based on age against those 40 and older.	25 1990: Navy LCDR Darlene M. Iskra installed as Commander, <i>USS Opportune</i> , a salvage vessel. Christmas Day Birth of Jesus (Christian)	26 1945: African-American Army 1LT John R. Fox receives Medal of Honor posthumously for extraordinary heroism. Kwanzaa Begins (Interfaith)	27 1944: U.S. War Department ends internment of Japanese Americans.	28 1977: Army Combat Exclusion Policy enacted this month; keeps women out of specialties or units that involve direct combat.
29 1944: 5,000 African Americans volunteer to participate in "Battle of the Bulge."; 2,500 accepted.	30 1941: Fifty Korean Americans are registered for California National Guard duty as of this date.	31 1933: LTG Allen K. Ono, Army's first three-star Japanese American, born.				



Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute

Multiculturalism in the Armed Forces in the 20th Century 2002

